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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## Suggestions for State Board of Health Regulations for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases.

Approved by—

Surgeon General of the Army.

Surgeon General of the Navy.

Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

*Venereal diseases declared dangerous to the public health.*—Syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid, hereinafter designated venereal diseases, are hereby declared to be contagious, infectious, communicable, and dangerous to the public health.

*Rule 1. Venereal diseases to be reported.*—Any physician or other person who makes a diagnosis in, or treats, a case of syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancroid, and every superintendent or manager of a hospital, dispensary, or charitable or penal institution, in which there is a case of venereal disease, shall report such case immediately in writing to the local health officer, stating the name and address or the office number, age, sex, color, and occupation, of the diseased person, and the date of onset of the disease, and the probable source of the infection, provided, that the name and address of the diseased person need not be stated except as hereinafter specifically required. The report shall be inclosed in a sealed envelope and sent to the local health officer, who shall report weekly <sup>1</sup> on the prescribed form to the State board of health, all cases reported to him.

*Rule 2. Patients to be given information.*—It shall be the duty of every physician and of every other person who examines or treats a person having syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancroid, to instruct him in measures for preventing the spread of such disease, and inform him of the necessity for treatment until cured, and to hand him a copy of the circular of information obtainable for this purpose from the State board of health.

*Rule 3. Investigation of cases.*—All city, county, and other local health officers shall use every available means to ascertain the existence of, and to investigate, all cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, and

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<sup>1</sup> Substitute period required for other communicable diseases.

chancroid within their several territorial jurisdictions, and to ascertain the sources of such infections. Local health officers are hereby empowered and directed to make such examinations of persons reasonably suspected of having syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancroid, as may be necessary for carrying out these regulations. Owing to the prevalence of such diseases among prostitutes and persons associated with them, all such persons are to be considered within the above class.

*Rule 4. Protection of others from infection by venereally diseased persons.*—Upon receipt of a report of a case of venereal disease it shall be the duty of the local health officer to institute measures for the protection of other persons from infection by such venereally diseased person.

(a) Local health officers are authorized and directed to quarantine persons who have, or are reasonably suspected of having syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancroid whenever, in the opinion of said local health officer, or the State board of health, or its secretary, quarantine is necessary for the protection of the public health. In establishing quarantine the health officer shall designate and define the limits of the area in which the person known to have, or reasonably suspected of having, syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancroid and his immediate attendant are to be quarantined and no persons other than the attending physicians shall enter or leave the area of quarantine without the permission of the local health officer.

No one but the local health officer shall terminate said quarantine, and this shall not be done until the diseased person has become noninfectious, as determined by the local health officer or his authorized deputy through the clinical examination and all necessary laboratory tests, or until permission has been given him so to do by the State board of health or its secretary.

(b) The local health officer shall inform all persons who are about to be released from quarantine for venereal disease, in case they are not cured, what further treatment should be taken to complete their cure. Any person not cured before release from quarantine shall be required to sign the following statement after the blank spaces have been filled to the satisfaction of the health officer:

I, ....., residing at ....., hereby acknowledge the fact that I am at this time infected with ....., and agree to place myself under the medical care of ..... within ..... hours,  
Name of physician or clinic. Address.

and that I will remain under treatment of said physician or clinic until released by the health officer of ....., or until my case is transferred with the approval of said health officer to another regularly licensed physician or an approved clinic.

I hereby agree to report to the health officer within four days after beginning treatment as above agreed, and will bring with me a statement from the above physician or clinic of the medical treatment applied in my case, and thereafter will report as often as may be demanded of me by the health officer.

I agree, further, that I will take all precautions recommended by the health officer to prevent the spread of the above disease to other persons, and that I will not perform any act which would expose other persons to the above disease.

I agree, until finally released by the health officer, to notify him of any change of address and to obtain his consent before moving my abode outside his jurisdiction

.....  
Signature.

.....  
Date.

All persons signing the above agreement shall observe its provisions, and any failure so to do shall be a violation of these regulations. All such agreements shall be filed with the health officer and kept inaccessible to the public as provided in rule 10.

*Rule 5. Conditions under which the name of a patient is required to be reported.*—(a) When a person applies to a physician or other person for the diagnosis or treatment of syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancreoid, it shall be the duty of the physician or person so consulted to inquire of and ascertain from the person seeking such diagnosis or treatment whether such person has theretofore consulted with or has been treated by any other physician or person and, if so, to ascertain the name and address of the physician or person last consulted. It shall be the duty of the applicant for diagnosis or treatment to furnish this information, and a refusal to do so or a falsification of the name and address of such physician or person consulted by such applicant shall be deemed a violation of these regulations. It shall be the duty of the physician or other person whom the applicant consults to notify the physician or other person last consulted of the change of advisers. Should the physician or person previously consulted fail to receive such notice within 10 days after the last date upon which the patient was instructed by him to appear, it shall be the duty of such physician or person to report to the local health officer the name and address of such venereally diseased person.

(b) If an attending physician or other person knows or has good reason to suspect that a person having syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancreoid is so conducting himself or herself as to expose other persons to infection, or is about so to conduct himself or herself, he shall notify the local health officer of the name and address of the diseased person and the essential facts in the case.

*Rule 6. Druggists forbidden to prescribe for venereal diseases.*—No druggist or other person not a physician licensed under the laws of the State shall prescribe or recommend to any person any drugs, medicines, or other substances to be used for the cure or alleviation of gonorrhea, syphilis, or chancreoid, or shall compound any drugs or medicines for said purpose from any written formula or order not written for the person for whom the drugs or medicines are compounded and not signed by a physician licensed under the laws of the State.

*Rule 7. Spread of venereal disease unlawful.*—It shall be a violation of these regulations for any infected person knowingly to expose another person to infection with any of the said venereal diseases or for any person to perform an act which exposes another person to infection with venereal disease.

*Rule 8. Prostitution to be repressed.*—Prostitution is hereby declared to be a prolific source of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid, and the repression of prostitution is declared to be a public-health measure. All local and State health officers are therefore directed to cooperate with the proper officials whose duty it is to enforce laws directed against prostitution and otherwise to use every proper means for the repression of prostitution.

*Rule 9. Giving certificates of freedom from venereal diseases prohibited.*—Physicians, health officers, and all other persons are prohibited from issuing certificates of freedom from venereal disease, provided this rule shall not prevent the issuance of necessary statements of freedom from infectious diseases written in such form or given under such safeguards that their use in solicitation for sexual intercourse would be impossible.

*Rule 10. Records to be secret.*—All information and reports concerning persons infected with venereal diseases shall be inaccessible to the public except in so far as publicity may attend the performance of the duties imposed by these regulations and by the laws of the State.

#### Notes and Suggestions.

*Note 1.*—A rule providing penalties for violation of these regulations should be added if penalties are not specified by statute. It is thought preferable that the statute should prescribe a penalty for violation of regulations of the State board of health. In any case the State law should be examined to make sure that it either prescribes penalties or gives the State board of health power to do so. The statutes should also give the State board of health the powers suggested by the following wording: "The State board of health shall have power to make such regulations concerning venereal diseases, including the reporting thereof and quarantine of infected persons, as it may from time to time deem advisable."

*Note 2.*—It is recommended that provision for intensive treatment in suitable hospitals while patients are under quarantine shall be made by the municipalities, counties, or the State at public expense, and that adequate hospitals and clinic facilities of high standards shall be made available to voluntary and compulsory patients.

*Note 3.*—For the enforcement of these regulations it is recommended that States establish bureaus or divisions of venereal diseases under the State boards of health and appropriate the necessary funds.

*Note 4.*—The issuance of arsphenamine or equivalents to health officers, institutions, and physicians at State expense under suitable restrictions is a valuable measure for preventing syphilis, as these substances render cases of syphilis noninfectious in the shortest possible time.

*Note 5.*—Provision should be made for the examination of prisoners for venereal diseases and their treatment. If they are still infectious when their prison terms have

expired, they should be quarantined and treated until they can be released with safety to the public health.

*Note 6.*—Laboratory tests for syphilis and gonorrhea should be made for physicians by the laboratories of the State board of health and the health departments of large cities.

*Note 7.*—Due provision should be made for follow-up work and social service in connection with the prevention of venereal diseases.

*Note 8.*—Institutions are needed for the segregation of persons who are, or are almost certain to become, venereal-disease carriers and who can not be adequately controlled in any other way. Sufficient provision for the segregation of the feeble-minded is most important.

*Note 9.*—It is recommended that the “floating” or “passing on” of persons having venereal disease from one community to another be prevented.

*Note 10.*—It is suggested that the bureau of venereal diseases carry on a campaign of public education in venereal-disease prevention, and in the conditions responsible for the dissemination of venereal diseases.